

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06

CCO-00 IO-13 DRC-01 /132 W  
----- 051156

R 101327Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7629

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINS KU

SUBJ: STRIKE AT AMINOIL

REF: A) KUWAIT 3262 B) KUWAIT 3247

1. AMINOIL STRIKE NOW IN SECOND DAY. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS POLICE ARRESTED AND THEN RELEASED THE UNION PRESIDENT AND FIVE UNION OFFICIALS DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE STRIKE. POLICE ACTED ON MANAGEMENT REPORTS THAT UNION OFFICIALS WERE PREVENTING SOME EMPLOYEES FROM REPORTING TO WORK AND THAT THEY HAD CAUSED A BREAKDOWN OF AN EMPLOYEE AUTOMOBILE, ACCORDING TO KUWAIT TIMES. GROUP WAS RELEASED LATER WHEN, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER, ACCUSATIONS PROVED TO BE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED.

2. UNION SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT COMPANY REPEAT COMPANY MIGHT SABOTAGE INSTALLATIONS AND ACCUSE THE WORKERS OF DOING IT. REMINDING THE COMPANY OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES HE SAID "WE HOLD THE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WHOLE NATION FOR ANY SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES." HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE WORKERS' STRIKE WAS PEACEFUL AND WAS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, HAVE  
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BEEN AFFIRMED BY THE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. A FEATURE OF UNION STATEMENTS DURING FIRST DAY OF STRIKE WAS PARTICULARLY SEVERE DENOUNCIATION OF AMINOIL'S GENERAL MANAGER ISON. UNION SPOKESMAN SAID "HE BEHAVES AS IF HE WAS IN THE US AND NOT IN KUWAIT," AND HE REMINDED PRESS THAT ISON WORKED FOR YEARS IN SAUDI ARABIA WHERE STRIKES ARE BANNED.

4. IN SHOW OF LABOR SOLIDARITY THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF KUWAITI WORKERS TO WHICH ALL KUWAIT'S TRADE UNIONS AFFILIATED, DECLARED FULL SUPPORT AND BACKING TO AMINOIL WORKERS AND PLEDGED TO TAKE "SUITABLE" ACTION TO THIS END. HE HINTED THAT GENERAL STRIKE REMAINED A POSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: BASED ON STATEMENTS TO PRESS IT APPEARS THAT KUWAITI LABOR MOVEMENT WILL DRAW TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AMINOIL IN WHAT THEY MAY VIEW AS IMPORTANT TEST OF UNION RIGHT TO STRIKE IN KUWAIT. MEANWHILE UNION SPOKESMAN MADE CLEAR THAT UNION WILL ATTEMPT PLACE BLAME FOR ANY SABOTAGE ON THE COMPANY.  
STOLTZFUS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973KUWAIT03283  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) KUWAIT 3262 B) KUWAIT 3247  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STRIKE AT AMINOIL  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINS, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005